

# Eligibility Criteria

Prospective students interested in participating in this federally-funded grant program will need to meet two levels of eligibility requirements – proof of bi-lingual or multi-lingual skills and proof of academic preparation.

## Step One – Eligibility Criteria

Prospective students will need to meet each of the following requirements to successfully be considered for academic consideration:

- 1. Applicant must be 18 years old or older;
- 2. Students currently enrolled in high school must complete high school prior to applying;
- 3. Applicant must demonstrate primary language skills in a language other than English;
- 4. Applicant must be foreign born and furnish proof of immigrant status that demonstrates work eligibility in the United States (legal right to work and study);
- 5. Applicant must demonstrate competency in English and mathematics.

# Career Specialists to Provide Support in the Classroom and Beyond

Students will be assigned an academic counselor while attending Mercy College and receive further assistance throughout each semester of study through extended weekly class sessions in non-clinical courses. During some class sessions, peer tutors will further assist in understanding the content and practicing English vocabulary. Outside



of the classroom, Career Specialists from the Iowa Bureau of Refugee Services will work to address any challenges that might hinder your success, including help finding or maintaining employment that works with your classroom schedule, assistance with any public benefit programs you may qualify for, family concerns and other issues. Career specialists will also help you secure employment when you graduate. Some applicants may also be eligible for other forms of assistance from existing programs available through Iowa Workforce Development. Our goal is to keep you on track to obtaining the certification in the health care field of your choice and to gain employment soon after graduation.

## Financial Obligations and Federal Support

Students admitted into any of the academic programs at Mercy College offered under this grant program will be provided with a 75% scholarship of the current year's posted tuition as a grant subsidy. In addition, the grant will provide funds to cover the College application and graduation fees, two clinical uniforms, other required medical equipment, required textbooks, and national certification examination fees after successful completion of academic coursework. Admitted students will be obligated to pay 25% of the cost of tuition.

## Contact Information

Applicants interested in applying for a Step One review should visit the Pathways to Health Care Careers – Iowa website at [www.iowapathways.org](http://www.iowapathways.org) or call **1-800-JOB-IOWA (800-562-4692)** to speak with any New Iowans Center staff member for more information.



[www.iowapathways.org](http://www.iowapathways.org)

## Primary Partners



*This workforce solution was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The solution was created by the grantee and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership. This solution is copyrighted by the institution that created it. Internal use by an organization and/or personal use by an individual for non-commercial purposes is permissible. All other uses require the prior authorization of the copyright owner.*

# Pathways to HEALTH CARE CAREERS Iowa



[www.iowapathways.org](http://www.iowapathways.org)

# Pathways to Health Care Careers - Iowa

This unique project will recruit, screen, and provide training and support services to Limited English Proficient (LEP) refugees and immigrants in Iowa to help them pursue careers, with progression, in the health care industry.

The project is a partnership effort between Iowa Workforce Development, Iowa Bureau of Refugee Services, Mercy College of Health Sciences, and a number of health care employer partners. The project will serve nearly 300 individuals between fall 2010 and fall 2012 to enable them to prepare for certification in a nationally-recognized health care field and employment.

This project represents an innovative approach to meeting the staffing needs of the Iowa health care sector, while simultaneously opening a high-potential career path to the state's newest Iowans. This project will directly address the needs for: qualified individuals to enter the health care profession; skilled personnel who are bi-lingual to best serve the growing number of new Iowans who do not speak English and who come from differing backgrounds and cultures; and for additional services to assist refugees and immigrants in overcoming the language and culture barriers that impact their ability to pursue their employment goals.

## Programs of Study

Seven academic programs will be offered by Mercy College of Health Sciences under this grant program. Each of the academic programs offered has its own admissions requirements; please visit the Pathways website for more details at [www.iowapathways.org](http://www.iowapathways.org).

### Short-term Certificate Offerings

Short-term certificate programs are one semester academic offerings (15 weeks to complete course content) that prepare students for a national licensure examination in the specific field of study.

- Emergency Medical Technician-Basic
- Medical Billing and Coding
- Medication Aide
- Nursing Assistant

### Academic Certificate Offerings

Academic certificate programs are traditionally one year programs that will be offered to a single cohort of LEP students under this grant, taught over five to seven academic semesters (maximum of 2+ years) to help increase understanding of course content prior to testing for a national licensure examination in the specific field of study.

- Medical Assisting
- Paramedic
- Surgical Technologist

## A Brief Understanding of these Career Fields

### Medical Billing & Coding Assistant

Knowledgeable *medical billing/coding assistants* (MBC) are needed in virtually all aspects of the health care industry – wherever a physician's patient orders are coded. This means



you can choose employment opportunities in such settings as hospital medical records departments, physician offices, home infusion companies, pharmacies, clinics, nursing homes, insurance companies and more.

**Starting Wage:** \$12-13 per hour

**Length of Program:** 1 semester

### Emergency Medical Technician-Basic

*Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Basics* work in a variety of settings under the supervision of a medical director physician.

This course includes both classroom instruction and clinical experience, preparing students to enter the emergency medical services in a 9-1-1 emergency response service or a private transportation service.

**Starting Wage:** \$10 per hour

**Length of Program:** 1 semester

### Nursing Assistant

As a certified nursing assistant (CNA), you will be equipped to work in a variety of health care settings, including a hospital, skilled nursing facility, long-term care, hospice or home care setting. If after the course you successfully complete the State of Iowa certification exam, you will be placed on the State Registry, which is required for working in Iowa as a CNA.

**Starting Wage:** \$10-11 per hour

**Length of Program:** 1 semester

### Medication Aide

A medication aide distributes patient medications in nursing homes, schools, correctional facilities, or other non-hospital, assisted living facilities for the physically or mentally disabled. Medication aides are directly supervised by doctors or other licensed caretakers. They typically assist patients in properly taking oral, topical, or intravenous prescriptions in correct

dosages, as well as adhering to strict medical regimens. A medication aide also supervises patients to ensure they do not have any adverse reactions after taking their medications.

**Starting Wage:** \$11-12 per hour

**Length of Program:** 1 semester

### Medical Assistant

A medical assistant (MA) performs clinical and administrative procedures as a member of the health care delivery team. As an MA, you may have clinical duties within the offices of physicians, podiatrists and other health practitioners. Some

common tasks include taking medical histories and vital signs, explaining treatment procedures to patients, preparing patients for examinations and assisting physicians during examinations. You might instruct patients about medications and special diets, prepare and administer medications as directed by a physician, authorize drug refills as directed, telephone prescriptions to a pharmacy, draw blood, take x-rays electrocardiograms, remove sutures, change dressings and much more.

**Starting Wage:** \$12-13 per hour

**Length of Program:** 7 semesters

### Paramedic

A paramedic provides the highest level of advanced pre-hospital care available, with critical skills to intervene in life-threatening emergencies. As a paramedic you will provide care and compassion as you help individuals and families through life-threatening situations. You will be part of the patient's emergency team, and you'll use cardiac monitoring, defibrillation, medication administration and many other advanced medical procedures.

**Starting Wage:** \$13-17 per hour

**Length of Program:** 5 semesters

### Surgical Technologist

A surgical technologist (ST) is educated in surgical applications, technology, and patient care. As an ST you will assist in surgical operations under the supervision of surgeons, registered nurses, or other surgical personnel. You'll be a member of an operating room team.

**Starting Wage:** \$13-15 per hour

**Length of Program:** 6 semesters